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THE LIFE AND SCIENTIFIC WORK OF ACADEMICIAN V. A. KISTYAKOVSKIY

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Vladimir Aleksandrovich Kistyakovskiy was born 12 October 1865 in Kiev, the son of Aleksandr Fedorovich Kistyakovskiy, a criminal lawyer. The Kistyakovskiy family produced a number of scientists. Vladimir studied in Kiev, and then at Petersburg University from which he was graduated in 1889 as a Candidate of Physico-Mathematical Sciences.

He began his scientific work in 1888 in M. D L'vov's laboratory at the Petersburg University, and after graduation went abroad to work in Leipzig and Paris. His experience in the laboratory of Wilhelm Ostwald in Leipzig did much to shape his career.

Upon returning to Russia, Kistyakovskiy again took up his work in the Petersburg University laboratory, while teaching physics in secondary schools. In 1896, he became a privatdocent at the university, and began to write the first modern Russian course in electrochemistry.

In 1903, Kistyakovskiy was made Professor and Head of the Chair of Physical Chemistry of Petersburg Polytechnical Institute, where he organized the first separate laboratory of physical chemistry and electrochemistry. His pedagogical and experimental activities at this institute, which now bears the name of M. I. Kalinin, continued until 1934. During this time he trained many electrochemists, metallurgists, and other scientific specialists in addition to writing the textbooks Electrochemistry (Elektrokhimiya) and Applied Physical Chemistry (Prkiladnaya fizicheskaya khimiya).

Kistyakovskiy defended his doctor's dissertation at Moscow University in 1910. In 1919, he was elected an Active Member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, and in 1925, a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

In 1930, he organized a Laboratory of Colloido-Electrochemistry (LAKE) in the Academy of Sciences USSR, which was reorganized in 1934, after the removal of

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the Academy of Sciences USSR to Moscow, into the Colloido-Electrochemical Institute (KhIN) of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Kistyakovskiy supervised the activities of this latter organization for a number of years, and still heads one of its laboratories.

In 1934, he was elected a delegate of the Mossovet. The Order of Lenin has been conferred on him by the Soviet government.

Kistyakovskiy began his scientific research career in 1889 by investigating the interaction of arsenic acid with several unsaturated hydrocarbons. He did not long continue in this line, however, for the beginning of his career coincided with the new flowering of interest in the field of physical chemistry, a prominent center for this interest being the laboratory of Wilhelm Ostwald which was removed in 1887 from Riga to Leipzig. Vladimir Aleksandrovich returned from Leipzig to Petersburg a champion of this new interest, as indicated in his address to a combined session of the Chemistry and Physics sections of the 11th Conference of Russian Naturalists and Doctors in Petersburg on 23 December 1901.

His initial significant work was done on the theory of electrolytic dissociation of binary and complex salts in water solutions. To measure Hittorf numbers in this connection, he constructed and improved a simple and accurate voltmeter, popularly known as Kistyakovskiy's Silver Titrating Voltmeter. Between 1894 and 1896 he published Chemical Conversion in a Homogeneous Medium at Constant Temperature.

He also contributed to the development of the study of the physical properties of liquids, evloving several mathematical relationships which led to further discoveries by other scientists.

Another field of interest formed the basis for his dissertation, Electrochemical Reactions and Electrode Potentials of Several Metals. He began work in this line in 1901.

Under Kistyakovskiy's supervision, the First All-Union Conference on the Corrosion of Metals in Leningrad and the Conference on Corrosion in Moscow were organized.

Other interests which have claimed his attention are thermodynamics, the theory of flotation, and the photochemical decomposition of H_2O_2 in the presence of potassium ferrocyanide, which Kistyakovskiy explained as occurring because of the existence of a colloidal catalyst.

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